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Q. *Is it realistic to believe that President Nixon assigned the responsibilities of his 1972 re-election to subordinates who had never run for political office themselves, and that he never checked up on any of their activities, and that these men all betrayed him, which is why he was so completely in the dark about Watergate and the coverup? Is Nixon really so trusting?—T.T., Dallas, Tex.*

A. Such a belief as you hypothesize is unrealistic. Richard Nixon has always been a political infighter holding his subordinates on a short leash.